

**GOVERNOR DOYLE'S TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH  
FEBRUARY 18, 2005  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Erendira Almanza, Lori Barbeau, Bill Bazan, Stephanie Burrell, Blane Christman, Carl Eisenberg, Monica Hebl, Mark Miller, Maureen Oostdik-Hurd, Carrie Stempski.

At 9:30 am, the Chair of the Task Force, Dr. Blane Christman, called the meeting to order and welcomed Senator Mark Miller who is replacing Judy Robson on the Task Force.

The minutes for the January 7 and the January 14 meeting were revised and approved.

The Task Force directed staff to recommend that Governor Doyle contact Wisconsin's federal legislators to ask for their support of current funding for federal loan forgiveness funding.

The Task Force also asked staff to send them information on the Governor's budget as it relates to oral health.

**Recommendations on Education**

**Physician and Dental Loan Assistance Program and Health Care Provider Loan Assistance Program**

**The Task Force recommends:**

- That the Rural Health Development Council change the criteria to tie loan forgiveness to the number of Medicaid patients served and remove the existing tie to HPSA area on loans that use exclusive state funding. (Federal matching funds require that assistance be tied to serving in a shortage area, serving Medicare clients, and using a sliding fee scale.)
- That the Department of Health and Family Services work with the Rural Health Development Council to consider removing the language on shortage area and sliding fee scale from the loan forgiveness criteria.

**Priority:** Recommend the continuation of the current funding level or greater for the State Physician and Dentist Loan Assistance program and the Health Care Provider Loan Assistance program.\*

**Marquette University School of Dentistry**

**Priority:** Recommend that the state increase the annual funding from the Higher Educational Aids Board to support annual capitation payments for 50 Wisconsin students at the Marquette University School of Dentistry. Funding would begin for the Fall 2006 semester. Year 1 cost would be an additional \$87,530.\*

**Priority:** Recommend that the state increase the tuition subsidy for Wisconsin residents who attend Marquette University School of Dentistry from \$8,753 to \$11,670 per year at an additional cost of \$466,800 annually.\*

## Public Health Education and Other Education Items

### **The Task Force recommends:**

- That the Governor ask the Department of Public Instruction to include a question on oral health on the required state exams.
- That the Governor send a letter to the Wisconsin Dental Association encouraging them to provide pediatric dental education at their annual session.

## **Recommendations on Reimbursement Rates**

DHFS staff will forward a list of fees for dental procedures to the members.

The Task Force members agreed to forward three specific reimbursement rate proposals for further fiscal analysis by staff. The Task Force, at the next meeting, will address those proposals and make recommendations.

**Alternative #1:** Develop a two-year state fiscal estimate of a 10 percent annual increase in the reimbursement rate for all dental services with projected utilization increases of 0, 5, 10, and 15 percent.

**Alternative #2:** Develop a two-year state fiscal estimate of increasing the reimbursement rate to the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the ADA 2003 regional fee survey with projected utilization increases of 0, 5, 10, and 15 percent.

**Alternative #3:** Develop a two-year state fiscal estimate of increasing the reimbursement rate for a group of common procedures to the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the ADA 2003 regional fee survey with projected utilization increases of 0, 5, 10, and 15 percent. Medicaid staff and DHFS dental staff will develop the list of included procedures for consideration by the Task Force. All remaining procedures would be paid at the existing reimbursement rates.

The Task Force asked that orthodontic procedures be excluded from all three alternatives.

The Task Force discussed options on co-pays for some low-income clients. They considered asking DHFS to look into a waiver for co-pays that would instead ask recipients to pay an annual fee. After further discussion, no action was taken on co-pays.

## **Recommendations on Dental Hygiene Practice**

### **The Task Force recommends:**

- That legislation be drafted to allow dental hygienists to practice independently of dentists operating under their current scope of practice. Monica Hebl asked to be recorded as voting no.
- That staff send an independent message to the Governor alerting him of this recommendation so that he can move ahead on drafting and developing support for this measure. Monica Hebl asked to be recorded as voting no.

The Task Force then asked the dental hygiene associations to develop specific scope of practice recommendations for review by the Task Force. That information should include:

- A list of services currently allowed under the dental hygiene scope of practice in Wisconsin.
- A list that shows the difference between accreditation scope and statutory scope.
- A list of association recommendations for expansion of scope.

The Task Force also asked for more information on association recommendations for expansion of sites where a hygienist can work independent of a dentist.

The Task Force would like more information on the Wisconsin Dental Association's *Two Cents for Tooth Sense* proposal.

The Task Force supports Two Cents for Tooth Sense with the revenues going to oral health.

Staff will work with DOA to get a fiscal note on this proposal. The Wisconsin Dental Association estimate is \$50 million.

The Task Force will re-visit this issue when they review the list of funding priorities.

The Task Force finished on the issue of licensure of foreign dentists. Three points were made.

1. The number of foreign dentists seeking licensure is too small to have an impact on access to oral health which is the charge of this Task Force.
2. Ask the Governor to direct the Department of Regulation and Licensing to work with the Dental Examining Board to develop a method for foreign-trained dentists to be licensed in the state.
3. Members of the Task Force do not want to casually license unqualified individuals but want to make sure that qualified individuals have an avenue for licensure.

After some discussion, no action was taken and the members decided to come back to this issue at a later meeting.

Before adjourning the meeting, the members talked about how many more meetings were required for them to complete their task.

The Task Force adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be Friday, March 11 at the Madison Public Health Department. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am.

The remaining Task Force meetings are scheduled for:

Friday, April 8

Friday, April 15

Friday, May 13

\* The Task Force also developed a list of funding priorities that they will address as a group upon completion of their work on recommendations.